

Social Media Video – May 6, 2020

The power of reading out loud with your child

Reading stories out loud with your child has lots of benefits, but here are five main benefits:

- 1. Builds A Stronger Relationship** - Reading out loud nurtures the parent-child connection. When reading out loud is part of a daily family routine it provides a steady point of connection both parent and child can look forward to and count on. Practicing this daily ritual communicates not only that reading is important, but that the child is important. There's no e-mail, housework or television to create a distraction: just the two of you snuggling and cuddling up together with a book creates feelings of warmth and closeness in your relationship.
- 2. Increases Your Child's Vocabulary** - Exposing your child to language is proven to help expand their vocabulary. Your child will be introduced to new words and different ways to use the ones they already know. An increased vocabulary can improve your child's language development and build a foundation for school success.
- 3. Introduce Morals and Empathy** - Children's books love a good moral. Each night you're reading together, you're teaching your child the value of right and wrong and giving them a chance to practice empathy by considering the perspective of other characters in the story.
- 4. Encouraging Their Imagination** - Escaping to new worlds within the pages of their favorite book will help your child learn to use their imagination. Watch as the pages from a book come to life outside in the backyard, or a carefully drawn crayon picture. This is a fundamental skill in being creative and using their imagination.
- 5. It's FUN!** - You may have forgotten just how much fun it was to read, but reading to your child each night will reintroduce you to all those wonderful stories you enjoyed so much as a child. Fun-time is always significant for your child, but it's essential for you as well. Your child may want to read the same stories over and over again, or they may want to read new ones all the time. You can follow their lead on this. If your child is very young or not quite into the stories, you can just use a book with colorful pictures and look at the pictures together.

Reading offers valuable social and emotional learning tools that will provide your child with a strong foundation from which to grow their brains and their imaginations. Five minutes of reading a night can make a big difference, for you and your child.